SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: At present, we have only four international airports. If there is need in future, we can always have international flights from any airport.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: I do not know whether there is any sanctity for having only these four airports and for this No. 4. I would like to draw the Minister's attention to the fact that from Trivandrum we are having 19 services a week to Gulf countries, Sri Lanka Mali, etc. We are not operating such a great number of international services from any other airport. These flights are specially for the workers from Kerala working in Gulf countries. Last year, the Air India earned nearly 100 crores of rupees from the Gulf sector in Trivandrum. You are charging Rs. 2000/- per passenger extra in this sector. In this connection, I would like to ask a question. Taking all these factors into consideration and also the fact that we are operating 19 services per week as international services, the facilities are there and a new terminal has been built there, will the Government consider declaring the Trivandrum Airport as a gateway to India?

SHRI JAGDISH TYLER: No, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Bombay people will fight with you.

Indira Gandhi Open University

*326. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:†
DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised the plan for the functioning of the Indira Gandhi National Open University in Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and by when the University is likely to start functioning;

(c) whether the University would have close relationship with the All India Radio and Doordarshan for educational programmes;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) what are the subjects proposed to be introduced in the University?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SMT. SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) The Indira Gandhi National Open University Act came into force from September 20, 1985. The University has initiated the process of establishing the infrastructure in terms of buildings, equipment, production facilities and appointment of staff. The academic programmes of the University are likely to start by the middle of 1986.

(c) and (d) The delivery system of the University will consist of a diversity of means including modern communication technologies like Radio and TV. The utilisation of Radio and TV time have not yet been worked out.

(e) The programmes of the University are expected to include different certificate, diploma and degree level courses. The details of courses and their subject content have not yet been formulated.

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Indira Gandhi National Open University will introduce innovations and new objectives in the educational system, a departure from the existing system of education, and that what is the innovation, and also whether the University will be starting job-oriented courses for the unemployed educated youth.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Miss Saroj Khaparde.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Sir, in reply to the hon. Member's question, I would read out the objectives of this University. And they are as given out in the Act. It provides (a) strengthening and diversifying degree, certificate and diploma courses related to the needs of employment; (b) provide access to higher education for large segments of population, and in particular the disadvantaged groups such as those living in remote and rural areas, including working people, house-wives and other adults; (c) promote acquisition of knowledge in a rapidly developing and changing society for upgrading skills, knowledge and training; (d) provide innovative system of university level education which is flexible and open (e) provide education and training in various arts, crafts and skill work...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. She asked.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: She asked about innovative schemes. Therefore, I am saying that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have not understood the question. She asked whether this will give employment-oriented education.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI: Sir, I think, part (a) dealt precisely with that part of employment. I thing, the latter part also dealt with that innovative part.

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the number of students admitted in the University and whether the courses in the University will be like correspondence courses or there will be special teaching in the University. I would also like to know from the hon. Minister by when the University starts functioning as a full-fledged University.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Sir, I think, this is a very relevant question. I would like to assure the hon. Member that this has come into existence. It was inaugurated by the Prime Minister only on the 19th of November. In the meantime I would like to apprise of the developments that have taken place before the regular teaching staff is appointed. And that is, a 100-acre land has already been taken for the construction of the building. And in the meantime, a hired building has been taken in the YMCA consisting of 4,000 sq. ft. where the work has started. The recruitment has also started. And for the formulation of various courses, the work is continuing. And we expect that within two months, this work of assembling of the core staff will be over. And once this preliminary work is over, all the courses and the programmes will be worked out. And I would like to assure the hon. Member that even in the UK, when the British Open University was started, it took about three years for it to launch the academic programmes. We have just started it. And, I think, when we do start, it will be launched in a big way to meet with the expectation that she expects.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Sir, our hon. Minister has stated that they are going to open this Indira Gandhi National Open University in the beginning of 1986. Is there any proposal to start such Open Universities in important cities like Madras in South India?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Separate Universities or...

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: An Open University in Madras. Is there any proposal for any university like the Indira Gandhi National Open University at Madras?

SHRI K. MOHANAN: They are there everywhere.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: No, no. My question is whether they are going to start any Open University at Madras like this Indira Gandhi National Open University.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: If the State Government wants to take it up, they can do it.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Sir, during the discussion earlier, our former Education Minister said that there was a proposal to start... (*Interruptions*)...to start such open universities by the Central Education Department even in the southern parts of the country. Based on that particular statement, I am now raising the question whether there is any proposal of the Government of India or the Education Ministry to start such a university in Madras?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, I would like to say something on this supplementary. An open university, although it looks a very easy thing to do, is a much more complicated thing which needs a much more elaborate preparation. So, we have started with one in Delhi. There is no ban or there is no advance denial of similar facilities to other areas in the country provided we plan for these things properly and as my colleague has just pointed out, even where a successful university of this kind is running, they had to prepare for three long years. So, nothing is barred but at the moment we are grappling with the initial teething troubles of this university itself. So, let us see how it starts and they are doing their best to introduce some courses in 1986. It will not be full-fledged in the sense that they will introduce all the courses. Now, coming to courses, naturally the courses are being worked out. But meanwhile if Members have any ideas of any certain special courses which they think are going to be useful to the people, they can certainly tell us and we can pass them on to the Vice-Chancellor and they can consider them.

SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK: Sir, when the Indira Gandhi Open University Bill was passed it was planned that this university will be open to students from all parts of the land and, therefore, for the comprehensive functioning of this university there will be regional centres. May I ask the Minister concerned what arrangements are being made for the regional centres to cater to the students of the east, south and middle of India?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, the jurisdiction of the university is whole of India. Now, once the university starts, how it is going to function in different parts of India effectively is a matter which needs to be planned later. As I said, they are still in the initial stages. They will take some time to take decisions on all these matters. As and when the decisions are taken, we will certainly inform the House.

*327. [*The questioner (Shri Hukmdeo Narayan Yadav) was absent. For answer, vide col. 35-36 infra*].

New National Highways

*328. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO:

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:†

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:—

(a) what is the length of State roads which were included in the list of new national highways during (i) 1980-81, (ii) 1981-82, (iii) 1982-83, and (iv) 1983-84; and

(b) what are the details of these roads?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) and (b) A statement giving the requisite details is laid on the Table of the House.

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†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Usha Malhotra.